

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-16, and 18-21 are pending in the application. Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 14, 18, and 20 will be amended. No new matter has been added. The claims have been amended solely to expedite prosecution of the present application, and Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of previously pending claims in this and other applications. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments because (i) no new search would be required and (2) the amended claims are in condition for allowance.

Previously pending claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,172, 305 ("Tanahashi").

Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that each microstrip line is electrically connected to a single "conducting portion" of the second voltage plane. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 2 of the present application, the microstrip lines 240, 242 are electrically connected to a single conducting area comprising a voltage plane 230.

Tanahashi does not disclose such an arrangement. For example, FIG. 2B of Tanahashi illustrates that what are being considered microstrip lines (G1 and P1) are coupled to separate conducting areas on what is being considered a second voltage plane 14 (G4 and P4). Thus, FIG. 2B does not teach or suggest that each microstrip line is electrically connected to a single "conducting portion" of the second voltage plane are recited in claim 1 as amended. Moreover, Applicants respectfully suggest that the other embodiments disclosed in Tanahashi (as well as the other references) suffer from a similar deficiency.

Claims 14, 18, and 20 have been amended to recite similar limitations. Note that claim 14 has been amended to recite that "that each microstrip line is to be at [a single] voltage" (instead of being coupled to a single conducting portion).

Reconsideration of the final rejection and allowance of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

C O N C L U S I O N

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,



November 21, 2005
Date

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